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Master Of Espionage

Americans knew him as the director of the Central Intelligence Agency. The fact is, Allen W. Dulles made his mark as a master of espionage during World War II when, operating from a base in Switzerland he established a network of informants throughout Europe that even reached into Hitler's high command.

He knew in advance, for instance, of the plot to kill Hitler in July, 1944. He was the first to uncover Nazi rocket development plans, and to learn about the establishment of bases to bombard Britain.

It was no accident that President Truman singled out Mr. Dulles to take the job of deputy director of the CIA in 1951. Dulles, quiet and unassuming, had all the credentials. President Eisenhower made Dulles director in 1953.

Although past retirement age, he stayed on under President Kennedy until resigning in 1961.

The CIA became a center of controversy after the downing of the U-2 spy plane over Russia in 1960, and again in the first year of the Kennedy administration after the Bay of Pigs debacle.

Dulles took it all without a show of emotion. "Obviously," he said, "you cannot tell of operations that go along well. Those that go badly generally speak for themselves."

The very nature of the CIA — even its budget is hush-hush — requires the policy of taking no credit for its triumphs and offering no apologies for its failures, or what appear to be failures.

Mr. Dulles served his country with dignity, dedication and competence.